

Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Health
Hearing on “Protecting Infants: Ending Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Providers Who
Violate the Law”
September 17, 2015

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Every human life deserves a voice. That’s why we are here today. This committee has spent the past nearly two months investigating Planned Parenthood and a series of videos that raise important question about if it or its affiliates are violating existing law. That investigation is ongoing and we will continue to use every tool available to get to the facts.

In the meantime, there are steps we can take today to help ensure that the laws are being followed.

The two bills being discussed today take important steps toward protecting infant lives and ensuring existing laws are being followed. Committee Vice Chairman Marsha Blackburn and Rep. Renee Ellmers have both demonstrated their leadership in authoring these bills to bolster the Born Alive Infants Protection Act and Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

Today, Medicaid pays for about half of the births in the United States. Medicaid is also a significant portion of Planned Parenthood’s revenue. While states have some ability to enforce existing law under Medicaid, these bills help ensure that states have more of the tools they need to ban someone who is suspected of taking the life of an innocent baby from the state’s Medicaid program.

These are commonsense measures to help ensure laws are being followed. If health care providers break the law, of course they should be banned from federal health programs. Further, if states suspect providers are violating the law, they should have the ability to ban that provider from Medicaid.

This hearing, these bills, and our ongoing investigation are about ensuring taxpayer dollars support human dignity, respect for all life, and adherence to all federal laws.

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